

## “Shack City” Raises Awareness for Poverty

By Mike Koscielny, Staff Writer

SJC’s chapter of Habitat for Humanity held their annual “Shack City” event Wednesday, October 18 next to the Whispering Wall in front of Halleck Student Center. At 6 p.m., participants began to arrive and set up their makeshift homes for the night.

“We [Habitat for Humanity] were out there to raise awareness for homelessness,” junior Elementary Education major Katie Egan said. The group utilized signs, taped to the ground, which displayed facts about homelessness.

In addition to creating awareness for the less fortunate, the event helped Habitat for Humanity raise money to sponsor several disadvantaged families during the Christmas season. The funds will aid in purchasing gift certificates for the needy community members.

The boxes used by Habitat were sponsored with charitable



Mike Thurston entertains fellow “Shack City” participants with bongo tunes. (Photo courtesy of Katherine Stembel)

donations. The Education Club and the SJC Junior class specifically sponsored two of the boxes.

With donations secured, the participants layered up and prepared to spend the night, in spite of the weather conditions. From 6 p.m. Wednesday, through

the cold drizzle of the evening, until their Thursday morning classes, the participants experienced what it was like to be homeless.

“I think it’s important to experience what it is like living without heat and shelter,” Egan said.

## Upcoming Poetry Reading

By John Groppe, Professor Emeritus of English

Norbert Krapf, distinguished poet and Saint Joseph’s College alumnus, will read selections from his latest book of poetry, *Invisible Presence: A Walk through Indiana in Photographs and Poems*, at the Carnegie Center on Friday, October 27 at 7 p.m.

*Invisible Presence*, his fifteenth book of poems, is a collaboration with the Indiana photographer Darryl D. Jones. Krapf’s poems are reflections on the Indiana scenes photographed by Jones.

Krapf writes about the places and people he knew when he was growing up in southern Indiana. “My passion for origins has been inseparable from my compulsion to write poems,” Krapf said. “I find it impossible to live, fully, in the present without understanding where I have lived in the past.” His earlier collection of poems, *The Country I Come From*, was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in 2002.

Krapf graduated from Saint Joseph’s College in 1965 and went on to receive an MA and Ph.D. in English from Notre Dame University. He then began his teaching career at the C. W. Post campus of Long Island University, where he taught from 1970 to 2004, when he retired as emeritus Professor of English. He directed the C. W. Post Poetry Center and was appointed the first Poet Laureate at Post. Krapf now resides with his wife



Norbert Krapf

Katherine and son Daniel in Indianapolis.

Krapf’s reading will also include a showing of the photographs from which each poem is derived. Jones’ photos in *Invisible Presence* are unusual in that the images and colors swirl like those in a Van Gogh painting. “These photographs and poems,” wrote Indiana University Professor and author Scott Russell Sanders in the Preface to *Invisible Presence*, “rarely show anything new fangled or troubling, yet what they do show is illuminated by a wisdom that will outlast the industrial blight, a wisdom that could help us heal our land and our lives.”

Copies of *Invisible Presence* will be available for purchase at the reading. Krapf’s reading is cosponsored by The Prairie Arts Council and the SJC English Department. The reading is free and open to the public.

## Upcoming Community Events

- Oct. 13-Nov. 3: Recent Work by Lafayette Artists: Ginger Borden, John Crosby, Elizabeth Diaz-Depew, and Lou Kontos; Contact Prairie Arts Council (219) 866-SART
- Oct. 27: Gilmore’s Green Acres Flashlight Corn Maze 7-9 p.m. To sign up contact Angela Potticary at apott@saintjoe.edu
- Oct. 27: Norb Krapf reading 7 p.m. at Carnegie Center
- Oct. 28: David Morgan concert, City Office & Pub 8 p.m.; MUST BE 21 or older
- Oct. 30: Trick-or-Treat for the Hungry; Contact Campus Ministry at jkirch@saintjoe.edu
- Nov. 5: Nursing Home lap blanket project; Contact Katelin Korn at kkj4991@saintjoe.edu
- Nov. 10-11: Prairie Arts Council Holiday Fine Arts Show & Sale
- TBA: Respect for Life group to visit the Rensselaer Care Center. For more information about how to get involved, contact Joanna Askwith jak5371@saintjoe.edu

## SJC Students: Get “Involved for Life” in Community

By Myra Dalton, Staff Writer

Wal-Mart, China Garden, and the local bars: three stops many Saint Joseph’s College students make on any given day. With SJC located in a small community, students may overlook what the locals have to offer. With activities ranging from art gallery shows, a corn maze, guided tours at the Fair Oaks Dairy Farm, and activities at the library and Carnegie Center, students have ample opportunity to get involved in the Rensselaer Community.

Lauren Moretti, senior Art major, has found her niche at the Carnegie Center, working with kids at the Junior Art Club on Wednesday afternoons.

“Just getting to hang out with the kids once a week is a huge reward for me,” said Moretti. “With all of the other activities I’m involved in, it’s really nice when I get to go to Junior Art

Club and just have fun and be silly with the kids.”

Through the Junior Art Club, Moretti is able to apply what she is learning in the college

“The people who are involved are the same people involved throughout the board.”  
~Mark Brouwer

classroom and teach the students in her weekly class.

“We will be doing more projects involving color, including ‘magic’ color changing clay, Jackson Pollock inspired splatter paintings, and a colorful group wall hanging,” said Moretti.

Aside from the rewards of working with kids, Moretti says

that getting involved early in the Rensselaer community can be a benefit to most SJC students.

“Getting involved in community activities is a really great way to get to know everyone outside of the SJC campus,” said Moretti. “It seems that so many students, by their third year of staying within the SJC ‘borders,’ are lost as to how to set up anything involving the community when they are asked to.”

Michele Gunkelman, Director of Housing and Residence Life, says that the Student Activities department is not sure where student interest lies, and that they are working to find out how to best serve the needs of students.

“We are not even sure what the interest level is with our students, and our goal is finding out what students are interested

in doing and then creating opportunities for them,” said Gunkelman.

Often, transportation issues and student involvement with campus extracurricular activities can be two factors that play a large role in whether or not students participate in community events. However, Mark Brouwer, Coordinator of Student Activities and Intramural Sports, is working to increase SJC student involvement.

“The people who are involved, the limited amount, are the same people involved throughout the board,” said Brouwer. “I want to improve upon the diversity of people who are involved in activities, so that it’s not the one person who has 17 meetings in a week because he or she is involved in everything. I also want to create more opportunities

and stuff of interest for everyone involved.”

Gunkelman says that there are always good opportunities to create community relationships, and her department just needs to focus on student interest to make those opportunities available.

Whether it is getting involved at the Carnegie Center, helping coach a high school football team, or simply volunteering time at the nursing home, SJC students have ample opportunities to get involved and give back to the Rensselaer community.

Upcoming events include a trip to Gilmore’s Green Acres this Friday, Chicago, Illinois, and possibly to the Fair Oaks Dairy. Students can look for fliers around campus about upcoming events, as well as contact Campus Ministry about impending community service projects.

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# SJC Community Members Enjoy Flying *Rumors* on October 19, 20, 21

By Elizabeth R. Hall, Staff Writer

Mother always said, “don’t believe everything you hear,” but when “rumors” are put onstage, it can be hilarious to show how people misconstrue what others have said.

The cast at SJC made it seem as though rumors were the funniest things on the face of the planet. Through their execution of this production, many of the SJC community members agreed with the message that Neil Simon, the playwright of *Rumors*, was trying to get across.

The plot involves a high-ranking New York City official and his wife, who plan to celebrate their tenth wedding anniversary with friends. However, when the deputy mayor’s wife goes missing and he attempts suicide, his lawyer instigates a cover-up. Confusion mounts as the number of party guests accumulates and no one can remember the information about each other. The hilarity climaxes in a flurry of slamming doors.

By the way the cast performed their roles, it seemed as though they were the actual characters themselves.

Assistant Professor of Communication and Theatre Arts

John Rahe provided insight into the making of *Rumors* at SJC. “We were looking for a good ensemble comedy for the first show, and one of the students suggested *Rumors*,” he said. “I acted in the play while on sabbatical and felt that it was a good choice.”

After settling on the play, Rahe chose the actors carefully.

“When you do auditions, as a director you go in with a vision of what the characters look and sound like,” he continued. “You then look for the best combination of people who will meet this vision and produce the best possible show.”

The cast includes ten students, several having appeared on the SJC stage in the past. Actors and actresses included: senior Elementary Education major Megan Barker as Chris; junior Math major BJ Houlding as Officer Welch; freshman Theatre major Rachael Kooi as Claire; freshman Math and English major Mike Koscielny as Ernie; sophomore Music major Paige Popravak as Cassie; senior Elementary Education major Angela Shaver as Cookie; freshman Music major Mary Katherine Simons as Officer

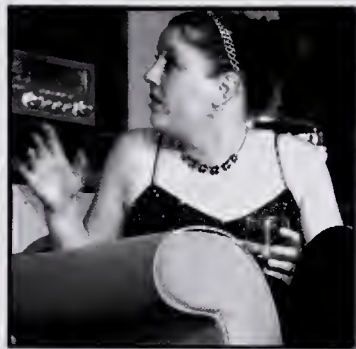


Lenny (George White), Ken (Joe Stewart), Ernie (Mike Koscielny), Glenn (David Spencer) (Photos courtesy of Katherine Stembel)

Pudney; sophomore English major David Spencer as Glenn; freshman English major Joe Stewart as Ken; and senior Psychology major George White as Lenny. The stage manager was junior Mass Communication major Dani Klosowski; assistant stage manager was sophomore Mass Communication major Kaylee Hofmeister; and costume designer was senior Chemistry major Marcie Keyes.

“I thought that the play was hilarious and that everybody did a fantastic job,” said sophomore Music major Anthony L. Dever. “Joe Stewart and Mike Koscielny were both extremely funny. Rahe did an excellent job embodying every character into which he decided to cast as the person.”

In short, best of luck to the Columbian Players in future endeavors and great job on *Rumors*.



Chris (Megan Barker)

## Vehicle Vandals Remain Unidentified

By Katherine Stembel, News Editor

BMW cars, Ford trucks, the vehicle model seemed to hold little significance for vandals who slashed tires and scratched paint the night of October 18.

Thursday morning, SJC students awoke to the damaged vehicles and an instructive e-mail from Dean of Students John Keller.

In all, 25 vehicles were damaged in what Keller described as “multiple acts of cowardly, senseless, destructive behavior.”

Owners of the vehicles were identified and contacted. The victims were asked to complete a vandalism report in the Dean of Students Office and to also give a

statement to their insurance companies.

SJC then began investigational work with the Jasper County Sheriff’s Department and the Rensselaer Police.

“At his point in the investigation there is not much that I can comment on other than we are working diligently to find the individuals responsible,” said Keller.

Heightening SJC security in order to curb future incidents is under discussion.

If you have any information that may assist SJC and the police in identifying the criminals, contact Ernest Watson at 866-6128 or Keller at 866-6127.



Sophomore Chemistry major Ashley VanSlooten exchanges a flat tire for a spare located in the trunk. Vehicles were vandalized the night of Wednesday, October 19. (Photo courtesy of Stembel)

## Little Sibs Take Over SJC

By Jennifer Ruff, Staff Writer

Students on campus the weekend of October 21 noticed the numerous little ones running around Saint Joseph’s College. On Friday, younger siblings of SJC students arrived to register for a weekend of fun with family.

After eating dinner in the cafeteria, the children were treated to a showing of *Casper the Friendly Ghost* in Core XI. Then, they could choose to attend the Columbian Players’ production of *Rumors* and get a few laughs.

After they tickled their funny bones, they could really get the party started at the dance at Coconut Joe’s. The combination of hit music, cool lighting effects, and free Frisbees created quite an impression on the little ones.

The next morning, the rather exhausted siblings ate breakfast and prepared themselves for another day of exciting activities. At 10 a.m., siblings who were not able to come on Friday were registered and ready to go. Pizza, sandwiches, and various drinks and snacks were served at 11 a.m. in the Hanson Recreation Center.

After pigging out, they passed the time with their Frisbees until the crafts were set up. Then their imaginations were put to the test as they created all sorts of decorations, including picture frames, Tootsie Pop spiders, and

hanging paper plate ghosts.

Finally, the highlight of the afternoon was prepared. The petting zoo caught the attention of everyone with its variety of exotic animals, including an armadillo, parrot, porcupine, alligator, and a snake named Scarlet. Siblings took turns holding and petting these creatures, and in some cases showed more bravery than their older sister or brother.

At 3 p.m., the volleyball game began and the youngsters enjoyed watching the close match against Marion College.

At 7 p.m., another highlight of the weekend started with Mad Chad Taylor’s performance of his many extreme juggling stunts. He began with the basics, juggling up to five tennis balls. He then cranked up the difficulty by juggling a chair, swords, and even chainsaws.

On Sunday, the siblings were invited to Mass and then brunch. Everyone concluded the weekend with smiles and memories to last a lifetime.



Little Sibs enjoy animals at petting zoo. (Photo courtesy of Ruff)

## Gaspar del Bufalo Feast Day Celebration

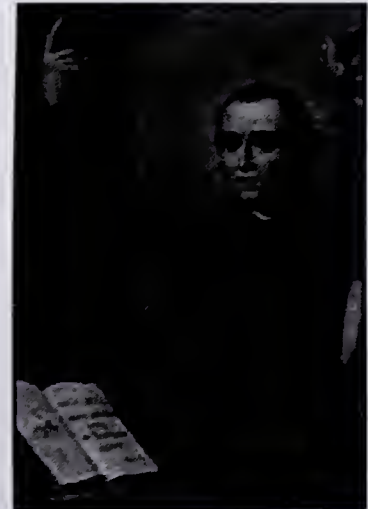
By Jessica Lamping, Staff Writer

On Friday, October 20, a Mass was celebrated for Saint Gaspar. While most students on campus have heard of the name “Gaspar,” few know who “Gaspar” was.

Saint Gaspar del Bufalo was born in Rome. The son of a chef, he grew up in the servant’s area of the noble family his father worked for. He would often visit the markets, talk with the poor farmers, and try to teach them about faith.

In 1808, he was ordained as a priest. During that time, Napoleon Bonaparte was trying to conquer Europe. Bonaparte wanted to control as much as he could, including the Church. He tried to get priests and bishops to take an oath to be loyal to only him.

Gaspar refused, and was exiled and imprisoned for years.



<http://www.mission-preciousblood.org/sgbiography.htm>

His imprisonment only strengthened his devotion to Christ. Eventually, Bonaparte was defeated, and Gaspar continued preaching to the people.

In 1815, Gaspar established the Missionaries of the Precious Blood (or *Congregatio Preciosissimi Sanguinis*, from which the abbreviation C.PPS. comes from) in Giano, Italy. This religious society was composed of priests and brothers who went around preaching the Gospel and telling people about God’s love through Jesus’ blood. Gaspar continued to gather men to this society, and today the missionaries are active in 18 countries.

Gaspar del Bufalo was declared a Saint in 1954.

As many members of the SJC campus know, this school was founded by the missionaries. While there are strong ties to Saint Gaspar, most people were unaware of who he was and what he stood for.



## Opinions

Opinions--you have them we need them. If you would like to voice your opinion, send a letter to the editor or become an *Observer* contributor. Contact the editorial board via our SJC email account.

[observer-editors@saintjoe.edu](mailto:observer-editors@saintjoe.edu)

## Reply to Sean Belt's Letter

By Maggie Broderick, Kirsten Magnuson, Chris Bush, and Sarah Quartuccio, SA Executive Board

As many students are aware, the Student Association fee cannot adequately support all of the activities that clubs, organizations, dorms, and classes wish to host. The budgeting process is a long, difficult and tedious task—one which is done with the collaboration of multiple parties.

For those who do not know, the process begins with the budget request forms. After a party completes this form and demonstrates the need for funding, the SA Executive Board compares current balance with funds requested. After the board thoroughly discusses the budget at hand, they pass it onto the Finance Committee and Dean Keller. Both the committee and the Dean of Students suggest improvements for the budget to the Executive Treasurer. After necessary revisions are made, the budget is brought to Student Senate. This year the Executive Board was particularly impressed by the discussions amongst club Presidents and dorm representatives. After deliberation occurred, it was passed. As one can see, without all of these parties working together, a fair budget cannot be passed.

In response to the Letter to the Editor, the SA Executive Board would like to clear up some misunderstandings. Criminal Justice Club did receive funding at the start of the semester, no funding was revoked due to philanthropic efforts, and funding will be granted next semester given the demonstration of need. At the time of the first letter from Criminal Justice Club the SA Board was unsure of the existing balance in the Executive fund. Ultimately a decision was made not to allocate additional funding. This decision was based on a number of factors. First, any club petitioning for additional funding must prove the need for this funding. To sponsor a child through the Christian Fund it

only costs \$150 a semester. The club had over \$800 in their account. Unfortunately, due to limited funds, clubs and organizations must prioritize the events they intend on funding.

When any club or organization petitions for additional funding, the SA Executive Board reviews the previous two semesters. When reviewing CJ club, the board found many questionable expenditures to the cost of almost \$1200. The board has not issued a response to date due to insufficient communication.

As for the board not supporting the disadvantaged, this claim is not only unfounded, it is also preposterous. After reviewing the case and our funds, the board contacted the Office of Institutional Advancement and another club willing to donate \$300 to CJ club to support the child in Honduras. Never once has a single member of the SA Executive Board claimed that the Christian Children's Fund as not deserving of SJC help. The decision of the board, through collaboration with our Faculty Advisor and two Administrators, is that no club should simply write a check of someone else's money. There is no education or sacrifice behind it. Even though the board personally objected to simply "writing a check," we still agreed the need to support the fund and even actively searched venues to ensure this donation took place.

This next Student Senate meeting, Budget Guidelines will be presented and discussed. There are restrictions on external organizations receiving SA funds, but it is in the opinion of the SA Executive Board that these guidelines support education and social development on campus, while still reflecting the SJC mission statement. If you are interested, please contact us or attend the meeting on Wednesday, November 1<sup>st</sup> in the Courtney Auditorium. Club Presidents and Dorm Reps are the only ones with speaking privileges.

## Act Your Age

By Mike Schmitt Staff Writer

With Election Day coming up I would like to take time to talk about a phenomena that will start plaguing the electorate on November 7th. This phenomenon is called political polarization. This occurs when opposing groups go to the extreme of their respective political spectra. Rage and frenzy will be aimed at the opposing parties. Edmund Burke, a political philosopher and theorist once wrote "Rage and frenzy will pull down more in half an hour than prudence, deliberation, and foresight can build up in a hundred years." And sadly, this problem is only growing. We have a president that people compare to Hitler. I beg people on both sides of the aisle to think for one minute and ask themselves, can America survive, where we cannot even debate each other without both sides calling each other names? Ben Franklin once said "We must, indeed, all hang together or, most assuredly, we shall all hang separately." We should heed this advice, for if we allow our differences between being a Republican or Democrat divide us, we will be hanged separately by those who wish us harm. Please remember I am not saying we have to march together in lockstep, far from it. What I am saying is that Republicans and Democrats both want what is best for America and we should remember this. Do Democrats really want another 9/11? I sure hope not. Likewise I hope the Republicans do not want to see the poor starving on the streets. I would like all those who read this to remember that America needs an open exchange of ideas if we want to remain free and retain our self-governing society we have come to enjoy.

## Tutors Are a Valuable Resource

By Rick Ayala

Class can be a big hassle. Sometimes, cram sessions just don't do the job. The tutors are an asset to help improve study skills, gain a better understanding of class material, and improve grades. It is quite probable that you have heard a professor preaching the benefits of the tutor program, but have you heard it from a student? The following letter is from an SJC student who wrote about having difficulty with class work, and how a tutor helped.

*Let's be honest, sometimes classes can just be a big pain.*

*I don't like to do homework and I don't really have time to study. At the same time, I still need to pass.*

*I don't want to waste several thousand dollars because I can't seem to get my work done or do well on tests. I tried to buckle down and study, but I just couldn't keep all the information in my memory. I tried to ask my professor for help, but everything was just over my head. I had no idea where to turn, and I didn't want to flunk out and be the collegiate shame of my graduating high school class.*

*One day, after a horrible Core class, I was walking in the hall and saw a brightly colored flyer. I don't know why I stopped to read it, but I did. It was the tutor flyer. I decided, what the hell, I'll see if it is worth my time.*

*I knew it didn't cost a cent to get tutored, and I was already looking for a new way to study. I had a test coming up, so I decided I would give it a try.*

*I emailed my tutor and we set up a time to meet in the library. The tutor knew exactly what we were doing in class because she*

*had already taken that class and got a great grade. She helped me focus on the important points of the material, showed me a new way to study, and tricks to remember all the information. I now try to use tutors for all my classes, and so far I have been improving my grades and finally understanding what is going on in class.*

*I suggest that if you haven't used a tutor, try one.*

Now that a student has given some insight to the benefits of the tutor program, what does that mean to you? The tutors are free to use, and are hired as tutors because they know what they are talking about. Take a few minutes to write an email or make a phone call to contact them, and set up a meeting time to go over homework, study for a quiz or test, or to simply gain a better understanding of your class' material.

If you don't know how to contact your class' tutor, look around campus for the brightly colored flyers. You can also check out their website, which has links to their email or phone extensions at <http://www.saintjoe.edu/~counsel/tutorboard.html>.

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## An Interview with Dr. Hartley

By Elizabeth Hall, Staff Writer

Dr. Hartley is the Assistant Professor of Sociology and Criminal Justice.

1) What extent of college education do you have? I finished my Ph.D. in August 2005. (Western Michigan University)

2) What is your favorite baseball team?

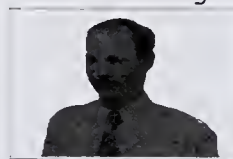
I guess I am like a lot of people that grew up in the shadows of Chicago and still hope to see the Cubs win the World Series at least once in their lifetime. I'm still hoping.

3) What are some of your hobbies?

Hobbies...the last few years with the intensity of school and working full-time, there haven't been many. Back when I still had a life, I used to play golf frequently, a little fishing, and even a little cross-stitch work when I still had reasonable eyesight.

4) What is your favorite food? Favorite food—that's a tough one. I suppose I could put in a category that I like most anything barbecued.

5) What was your favorite subject in school? Surprisingly enough my favorite subject(s) in school (and still is) involves most anything in the



(No photo of Dr. Hartley was available. This might be him. Courtesy of [www.cpla.cranbrook.bc.ca/libraryboard.html](http://www.cpla.cranbrook.bc.ca/libraryboard.html))

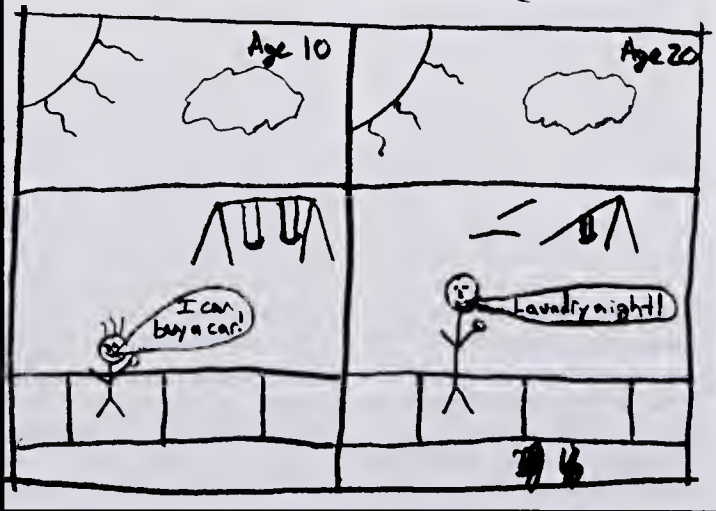
earth sciences. When I wasn't taking my required courses in criminal justice and psychology, I was taking geology, astronomy, and oceanography.

6) What do you see in a good professor?

A good professor has to be one that can capture the interests of their students. Given the complexity of any young student, this requires adjusting one's plans towards the peaked interests of the current class before the professor. While there are certain mandatory topics/issues one must complete during a course, most fields are so wide that we can wonder off in a variety of directions.

7) Name the most meaningful moment in your career. The most meaningful moment happens every year. Each year a new group of old freshmen reach that point of graduation. Having watched the change and development of these students over the years always holds the greatest importance to me.

## Then and Now: "Ooo--A Quarter"





# Teresa's Box of Indie Goodies

Teresa Moreno



According to the cover for *The Crane Wife*, Manchurian gnomes need love, too. (Photo courtesy of <http://mog.com/images/users/2614/1155743455.gif>)

## Decemberists Release Album

The Decemberists have been out on the market for quiet a few years now, and if you have yet to become familiar with their previous album, *Picaresque*, then chances are you won't be able to escape them this time around. *The Crane Wife* is a little bolder, a little more adult, and still as imaginative as their previous efforts.

*The Crane Wife* opens with "The Crane Wife 3," a sweet, mellow acoustic number. This song helps warm the crowd into one of the two epic songs that are to follow on the album. Already known for their song "The Tain" that spans well into twenty minutes, The Decemberists retreat back to the type of sound making they use in the "The Island": Come and See / The Landlord's Daughter / You'll Not Feel the Drowning."

The opening sound is almost reminiscent of Pink Floyd's *Dark Side of the Moon*, complete with guitar distortion. Stretching just past the twelve-minute mark, the song musically travels to new heights with each section it undertakes. The "Come and See" portion slowly builds until it crescendos into its chorus. Then "The Landlord's Daughter" hits with its fiery fingering on the keyboards that feels like a song from The Doors. With one last exclamatory "Ahhh-haaaa!" from lead singer Colin Meloy's mouth, the keyboards are suddenly silent and gentle strumming from an acoustic guitar begins. The section entitled "You'll Not Feel the Drowning" is left here, and it puts the listener in a softer place.

In "Yankee Bayonet," Laura Viers lends her vocals to perform a duet about a widowed soldier's wife. Her alto-folk sounding voice blends with Meloy's beautifully without overpowering it. The next track, "O Valencia!" begins with a steady beat and guitar strumming. Each verse gradually builds up to the main

chorus where the narrator exclaims that he swears to the stars "I'll burn this whole city down." Hidden in this upbeat song is a Romeo and Juliet-style love story. With upbeat drumming and a fun guitar part, the true sentiment of a Decemberists song can become a little cloudy. With lyrics like "Well the shot hit it hard / and your frame went limp in my arms / and an oath of love was your dying cry" it is easy to see why. Both of these songs are prime examples of one major Decemberists' trait: upbeat music setting the scene for a harrowing tale.

"Shankill Butchers" is probably the song on the album closest to the Decemberists' original sound found on *Castaways and Cutouts*. Simply, the song is just Meloy and an acoustic guitar with another occasional instrument softly playing in the background to add a little frosting to the song.

*The Crane Wife*, in the end, becomes an album that is more creative than their previous effort, *Picaresque*. In *Picaresque*, the band was almost being fun and quirky for the very sake of being fun and quirky. With an album title like *Picaresque*, it could be argued that it was the band's intent. However, this album proves they don't merely create things like "pirate rock" or only write things like sea shanties. Instead they produce a highly creative album without appearing to be weird and quirky for the sake of being individuals. In this album, The Decemberists become truly individualistic for applying their talents in a not-so-obvious way. Their sound is become a bit more adult, but they certainly are not running out of ideas.

The Decemberists are currently on tour to support *The Crane Wife*. For more information, visit [www.decemberists.com](http://www.decemberists.com).

The musical Scorecard is used to give a numerical value to the quality of an album. A score of 10 is amazing, but a score of 1 would cause most listeners to cry out in pain. Five is an average score. The review does not express the opinion of *The Observer*.

### Musical Scorecard:

- Originality: 9
- Lyrics: 9
- Music: 8
- Cover Art: 9
- Total: 8.75/10

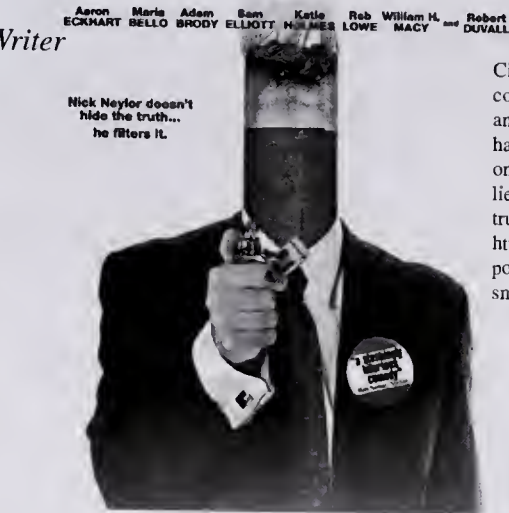
# Smoking is Good Entertainment

By Gabriele Nichols, Staff Writer

When entertainment and politics are mixed, usually something is lacking. This is especially true of comedy. Either the politics are sacrificed for the sake of the narrative, or the humor becomes overwhelmed by issues and messages. Christopher Buckley's original book *Thank You for Smoking* fell to the former problem, descending into a convoluted and ludicrous conspiracy plot.

The book, which followed fictional tobacco-industry lobbyist Nick Naylor, was most entertaining when it showed the day to day career of its protagonist. *Thank You for Smoking* the movie manages to balance comedy and politics by focusing the entire movie, from first scene to last, on Naylor's day to day activities. The movie doesn't function so much as a plot, but rather as an essay about the workings of lobbyists, spokesmen, and special interest groups. By emphasizing this loose plot and eliminating most of the aforementioned conspiracy, the movie becomes a rare example of a film being better than the book.

One of the achievements of the movie is making what would normally be a fundamentally evil character, a spokesman for the tobacco industry, into what could almost be called a hero. Actor Aaron Eckhart is responsible for much of this likeability, turning Naylor into a fully rounded person. He may be slick and deceitful when appearing on talk shows or in front of Congress,



but the tender moments with his son seem touching and humorous rather than saccharine and forced.

Of course, since *Thank You for Smoking* is a comedy, it first of all must be funny. Thankfully, Jason Reitman, whose father Ivan Reitman directed such comedies as *Ghostbusters* and *Stripes*, utilizes a small budget and a perfect cast to insult all participants of the smoking debate. One highlight is William H. Macy's portrayal of Senator Ortolan K. Finistirre, who utters the immortal line, "The great state of Vermont will not apologize for its cheese!" Another is the M.O.D. Squad, or Merchants of Death, a group of spokespeople who meet for lunches and discuss whose product kills the most.

The movie is funny. Thankfully, it also has a cogent message that embraces its other goal of making fun of everybody. Some reviews of the film complained that it was too easy on the tobacco industry and should have been more vicious in its satire. However, the message

Cigarettes cause lung cancer, contribute to heart disease, and increase your risk of having a stroke, but if there's one thing they don't do, it's lie. This is a man you can trust. (Photo courtesy of [http://www.uncut.at/data/poster/1988/thank-you-for-smoking\\_us.jpg](http://www.uncut.at/data/poster/1988/thank-you-for-smoking_us.jpg))

of the movie is not simply an attack on an already reviled industry. Instead, the movie attacks those who promote cigarettes and those who demonize them, showing how both groups deceive the public and decide what it should think, usually for the sake of money in some form. The movie ultimately presents a libertarian point of view, claiming that the American public should decide on its own what is best for its health and well-being.

It's an important message in a time when schools are banning the game of tag and activists attempt to ban video games simply because they deal with bullying. *Thank You for Smoking* manages to express its message without overwhelming the comedy. Even if you do believe that smoking is the devil incarnate, it's difficult not to find this movie hilarious.

4.5 out of 5

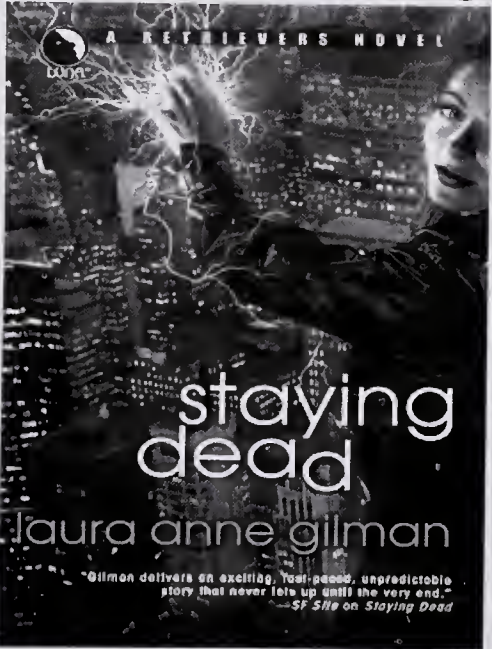
*Thank You for Smoking* is rated R for language and some sexual content. It is currently available on DVD.

## Detective Works with Magic

By Elizabeth Bessette, Staff Writer

A detective in Manhattan uses magic to solve crimes. Your interest just perked up, I know it did. I can just tell that you want to keep reading about this wondrous book I have decided to review. Laura Anne Gilman has written a clever novel that blends the world of reality with the concept of magic as a tool. *Staying Dead* holds to this blend, as well as adding in suspense that keeps the story moving well.

The main character, Wren Valere, is something like a freelance detective who finds magical items that have been stolen and gets them back. Perhaps a better way to describe her is to call her a professional thief. Wren retrieves a magical item without the original thief knowing about it. In this novel, Wren is sent in to find a missing cornerstone that has just been removed from a building. There is no damage to the surrounding structure at all. The huge chunk of rock is simply missing. Her client is an absurdly wealthy CEO with a magic complex, and he makes it clear that he wants the stone back no matter what it takes. Wren, through her brilliant powers of deduction, figures that the man is exceptionally irritated



Behold the power of the electric mime. Her crime-fighting prowess is surpassed only by that of Pikachu and the standard light socket. (Photo courtesy of [http://www.diesel-ebooks.com/mas\\_assets/full/parent-0373802536.jpg](http://www.diesel-ebooks.com/mas_assets/full/parent-0373802536.jpg))

because there was a protection spell on the block that affected the whole building. She sets out to find this block with the help of her partner, Sergei, a demon she refers to as Polar Bear, and a psychotic mage who has tried to kill her before. She manages to find the house that the stone has been taken to. She breaks in, marks the stone, and gets out without a hitch. Outside she is met with a slight problem. The owner of the house has crossbred normal dogs with hellhounds.

Yes, that's right, hellhounds. Then, the stone gets a crack in it and the magic begins to escape in the form of a ghost. Soon, Wren and Sergei find themselves hip-deep in trouble with magic councils, clients breathing down their necks looking for results, and a ghost that's out for revenge.

Loving mysteries and magic as I do, this book catered to my every whim. I strongly recommend it to mystery and magic lovers alike.



# House Rules Should Be Taken Seriously, Abused Often

By Joe Larson, *Co-Editor in Chief*

The first time I ever played chess, I set up the pieces on the board and just sort of guessed what I was supposed to do. That's why my chess set is missing a pawn and I'm now blind in one eye. Games have rules for our protection, but sometimes it's necessary to break or modify those rules because human beings are too lazy to read instruction manuals or put on goggles before getting into pawn fights. These amended rules are often known as "house rules," mainly because they can't be made by people who live in apartments. In one common home rule, Monopoly players put money under the space labeled "Free Parking" even though there is no such stipulation in the rules. These Monopoly players are going to hell. Nearly every game has similar rule modifications, some of which make games more fun and others of which increase the likelihood that your game of charades will end in a murder-suicide with an accompanying musical. "It's Three Words and Starts with a Stabbing Motion" could be the next big hit on Broadway. In the meantime, here are a few underused house rules for everybody's favorite childhood games:

## Twister

If you don't find much of a thrill in body contortion, try the hand-to-hand combat variant. "Right hand, blue" might be entertaining for a novice, but nothing can quite compare to satisfying crunch of "left foot, somebody else's spinal column." Turn a profit by working on commission for your local chiropractor or coroner.

## Pretty Pretty Princess

Instead of trying to win pieces of plastic jewelry, work to earn fishnet stockings and glow-in-the-dark condoms. Pretty Pretty Princess: Skank Edition is unlikely to gain the endorsement of any parent-teacher associations in the near future, but it nonetheless teaches valuable lessons about having sex with random men and not getting paid

for it. A skank is just a hooker with poor business sense.

## Kick the Can

Not every group of children has a can to kick, but every clique has a token Asian. It's only a hate crime if you don't win.

## Bible Trivia Game

This variant works best if played with a small child before his or her bedtime. Ask the kid the following question: "Who created the heavens and the earth and loves you very much?" When the child answers "God," politely respond, "No, you retard. First of all there is no God, and second, even if he did exist, he would never love you. He'd probably just run away like your parents are going to do tonight while you sleep. Goodnight." Then turn off the lights and leave the room.

## Candy Land

In order to make the game appropriate for a mature audience, abandon euphemisms like "Gum Drop Mountain" and "Peppermint Stick Forest" and acknowledge the inherent dangers of accepting candy handouts. In this variant, players win when they get in the back of a van with a stranger.

## Substance Abuse

You'll need to play this game later in life to deal with your experiences from Candy Land. Alcohol can't make you forget, but large quantities of paint thinner can.

## Jenga

If you lose, make a rule blaming the collapse of the block tower on a government conspiracy. There's no way it could have fallen that fast without controlled explosions on the inside. Plus your hands were still shaking from all the paint thinner.

## Mystery Date

Amend the available cards to include the following potential dates: statutory rapist, serial killer with a hockey mask, and hockey player on a cereal box. No one



Frame 382 clearly shows the tower collapsing moments *before* several Middle Eastern men allegedly had a chance to destroy it, thereby proving the true culprit was the federal government and possibly global warming. (Photo courtesy of <http://www.knockoutentertainments.com/images/Photos/Jenga-1.jpg>)

wants to get stuck dating Wayne Gretzky.

## UNO

Instead of announcing in Spanish that you have only one card remaining in your hand, deliver your message in Swahili. The Swahili way to say "I have one card left" is to roll a grenade onto the playing table and run away. Consequently, this is also the Swahili way of saying "I love you" and "I found your lost grenade."

## Hungry Hungry Hippos

Hire a narrator to describe the socio-economic struggle that unfolds as the game progresses. The resulting narrative will inevitably focus on the way colored hippos sustain themselves by munching large quantities of white balls, which might explain why this variant is banned throughout the Bible Belt.

Alternately, achieve a better understanding of the process of satiating hippo hunger by eating a large wad of bacon every time your plastic animal friend eats a ball. The average player will consume the equivalent of sixteen pigs before the end of the first round. To achieve the full effect of this rule, be sure to play in front of throngs of starving children.

## Self-Mutilation

The kid who cuts the straightest wins – then dies.

## The Game of Life

For children, you have the option to give birth to a boy, a girl, or the anti-Christ. To achieve the latter, you have to take a career as an actuary and marry a demonic goat. The actuary part isn't really necessary, but demonic goats totally dig guys who are good with numbers.

The game also has all sorts of "Life Tiles" listing accomplishments that you collect throughout the game and then read at the end. Replace "cure the common cold" with "contract crabs from a promiscuous orangutan." Then replace "successfully climb Mt. Everest" with "fall down a crevice and die while scratching."

## Ouija Board

Instead of treating the Ouija Board as a séance device, use it like a chat room. Lie about your identity and hit on underage girls. With your luck, however, that really cute demonic goat will actually be a cop.

## Trivial Pursuit

Every time someone misses a question, cut off his or her finger. This adds to both the tension and your dismembered finger collection.

## Duck Duck Goose

This is the ugly duckling variant. Pick out the least attractive kid in class and make him stand outside the circle. Then laugh as he gets badly mauled by a flock of Canadian Geese. Swans cherish beauty, but geese seek and destroy unattractiveness, even if it's miles away.

## Chess

Checkmate can be averted by swallowing your king. Few know of his secret escape hatch, and even fewer are willing to block it.

## Scrabble

Ban all words and phrases except for elaborate euphemisms describing bowel movements.

"Letting the black king out of his escape hatch" is worth triple points.

## Truth or Dare

Play the family-friendly version to learn more about your parents. It's the best way to find out that the only reason you weren't aborted is that your mom thought she could trade you in for more blow. Nothing's stronger than a mother's love for her drug of choice.

## Hopscotch

Most young girls love this playground game. Instead of drawing chalk squares and jumping inside them, go inside and do the laundry. You might as well get used to it, woman.

## Monopoly

Instead of being the banker, play as the government. Seize all properties in the game through eminent domain. Then kill all the poor people with a hurricane.

## Charades

You can only convey messages by swinging your arms wildly and screaming "balls!" at the top your lungs. Congratulations, you speak "freshman."

## Hide and Go Seek

Tag has recently been banned on some playgrounds for being too dangerous and emotionally traumatizing. Hide and Go Seek should be modified to avoid a similar fate while also helping better prepare children for the realities of our time. Plus, Cavity Search and Go Seek could save teachers valuable time by educating children about a few of the finer points of puberty.

## Smoking

It makes you cool, and when second-hand smoke is involved, everybody wins. Great for ages three and up.

These are just a few of the ways to enhance already-great games with slight rule changes. Remember, any new rule is a good rule as long you win and somebody else gets seriously injured. Modifying rules at the expense of safety is the Christian thing to do, or at least it would be if the Bible Trivia Game hadn't taught us that there is no God.

# Extreme Makeover is Too Extreme, Badly Needs a Makeover

By Roger "Jelly" Spitler, *Staff Writer*

Does the house really get a makeover? Just how extreme is it? *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* should be renamed *Let's Send You To Disneyland While a Screaming Maniac with a Soul Patch Destroys Your House and Builds a New One*. It's not quite as catchy but it definitely sums up the show better.

*Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* is ABC's hit Sunday show (7 p.m. Central), airing just before *Desperate Housewives*. Essentially, the show is based on host Ty Pennington tearing down an old house and building a new one for an underprivileged family. Yes, it's warm and fuzzy and makes the moms of the world happy, but it makes for really boring television. Ty became well known on TLC's *Trading Spaces*. He was the rambunctious carpenter the

female room designers flirted with while he made elaborate wood workings.

The show begins, and the underprivileged family is introduced to the viewer, relating their tale, which is usually sad and devastating. Occasionally these stories also have heroic beginnings with tragic results. Ty roles in on a very expensive looking RV, pulls out a bullhorn and the yelling begins. He screams the family's name, they run out to meet Ty, and everyone is happy, jumping up and down because their savior, a reality TV show, has arrived. Ty then "listens" to the family, relates to them, and ships them off on an exotic one week vacation. A team of builders and crew workers, usually followed by the entire town in which the family lives and a few celebrities, comes

out of nowhere ready to help. They don't just make the house over, they tear it down completely and build a new home, nothing like the first. This new home "fits" the family's needs. It concludes with the whole town watching as the family is standing behind the expensive RV. The family, including Ty, yells, "MOVE THAT BUS!" and the bus rolls away. The family and Ty, again, jump up and down, crying, excited, at their reality show savior.

I don't mean to make all the moms of the world cry, ruining their fuzzy story, but this show is just ridiculous. Watching Ty yell at people for an hour while other people build things and an underprivileged family gets an amazing house and vacation is not great television; it's a great

mission project. The rooms are elaborate and decorative, usually massive in size, as the families have more than four children, but the practicality of them makes no sense. It's a lot of fun to have a massive living room with flat screens and couches, but if you're in a wheel chair, it's hard to push a vacuum around and sweep it up and maneuver around the massive furniture. If you live in a poor neighborhood, how long is that nationally televised new flat screen going to last before it's stolen? Who needs a football field in their backyard? How is a family going to sell the house when the backyard is a football field with artificial grass? Looking for a new place, Dan Marino? The kids get amazing themed rooms! Yes! What happens when five year old Johnny doesn't like having

clouds and moons on his ceiling as he enters his teen years, dressed in black and listening to death metal? Ninety-five percent of the families on the show can't afford what mortgage payments they do have on meager houses (which ABC usually pays off), so how can the family afford to remake Johnny's room when he isn't five anymore?

People don't live in houses like these unless they are on MTV Cribs. Ty rolls in, yells and yells (can you tell I'm annoyed by the yelling?), then makes an impractical house that will be "fun" for a while. The stories of the family aside (because yes, they do deserve some help and charity and in no way to I mean to lessen their story), this show makes my brain heart and ears bleed. Since I can't give negative ratings, *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* gets 0.01 jellies out of 5.



## Football Team Cruises Past Lincoln, Kentucky Wesleyan

By Andrew Costello,  
Sports Editor



Cornerbacks Deqwan Young (5) and Lance Burns (4) have been a part of a "stingy" defense this year for the Pumas. (Photo by Fr. Tim McFarland).

The Saint Joseph's College football team continues to amaze its critiques and competitors every time they set foot on the gridiron. Proving that they are a very balanced, yet explosive unit, the Pumas (6-2, 3-0) have gone 2-0 since we last visited them on Homecoming, easily pummeling their opponents and proving to the whole Division II nation that they deserve a playoff berth.

The Pumas have successfully completed the first half of their late schedule four-game road trip in commanding fashion, punishing Lincoln (Mo.) 60-3 on October 14 and slapping some sense into Kentucky Wesleyan with a 41-3 victory last Saturday.

The past three games for the Pumas have seen an incredible amount of offense complemented by a impregnable defense.

The victory last weekend over Lincoln was the fourth-highest scoring output by the Pumas in school history, as well as the second largest margin of victory (57 points) by a SJC squad since the Pumas defeated Navy Pier on November 11, 1956. Quarterback Anthony Lindsey continued to build on his impressive resume, completing 13 of 19 passes for 200 yards and 3 touchdowns. Greg Ford continued to chip away at the all-time rushing record, earning 163 yards on 24 carries. The receiving core of

Lonnie Hurst, Austin Capi, Dan Paulsen, and Victor Torres accounted for over 200 yards of offense and 4 scores. Perhaps even more impressive, the defense came up huge, making the Blue Tigers settle for a single field goal. Deqwan Young lead the team with five tackles, while Ethan Tyler, Cory Sanders, and Fred Blanton each had four tackles, both assisted and unassisted.

The defense this year has proven to be quite formidable, allowing only 15 points per game so far this season. Junior cornerback and defensive specialist Deqwan Young expects much from his teammates on the defensive unit.

"I think we've played pretty good over the past two games, but we are a stingy defense so we always feel that we should shut teams out, so we're not satisfied with teams scoring on us. That's the aggressive attitude that we will carry into the next three games, to shut people out," says a confident Young.

As if the win over Lincoln wasn't enough, the Pumas followed their impressive win over Lincoln with another stellar performance, beating Kentucky



Quarterback Anthony Lindsey looks for an open receiver. (Photo by McFarland).

Wesleyan 41-3. Anthony Lindsey played like a man possessed once again by throwing for 322 yards, reaching the end zone four times. Tight end Julius Taylor and Wide Receiver Dan Paulsen lead the team with 99 and 93 yards receiving, respectively. Greg Ford also caught four balls for 50 yards and rushed for another 73 yards and three touchdowns. The defense continued its stringent ways, keeping its opponents from scoring a touchdown for the second straight game. The defense validated its football acumen by defending well against the pass, as Fred Blanton, Cory Sanders, Deqwan Young, and Mike Lafata each caught an interception.

The Pumas have outscored their last three opponents 144-20, proving that they have talent and are for real. The Pumas are averaging 33 points a game, and look to carry that confidence throughout the rest of their schedule. Junior Wide Receiver Dan Paulsen feels that the gridiron warriors are up to the task.

"Our offense is looking really good. In order to be successful, we need to come to play every time we get on the field. We can't look ahead too much; we need to approach things game-by-game," says an optimistic Paulsen.

Tight end Julius Taylor recognizes that the Pumas are ready to play any place, any time. "I just want to say that our offense has been depicted as a one sided passing team for some reason, but as the last few games have shown, as well as the entire season has proved, we are not that. We are a true downhill, power run team, and until any other team in the conference who can prove us wrong, we will continue to do the same. We are

a running team. We work together well as an offense, and we will continue to produce yards on the ground and in the air if need be," says Taylor.

The Pumas head to West Virginia this Saturday to take on Fairmont State at 1:00 PM. The last meeting between the Falcons and the Pumas was in 1987, where Fairmont State topped SJC 42-36. The Pumas look to avenge such a defeat, as Fairmont State's current record is good. The Pumas then finish their four-game road trip by visiting Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio on November 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 PM. A storm is brewing...



Wide Receiver Dan Paulsen gets ready to dash for the end zone. (Photo by Fr. Tim McFarland.)

### 2006 FOOTBALL

9/2 St. Francis (IL.)	W 37-0
9/9 Wayne State	W 17-10
9/16 GVSU	L 6-31
9/23 Indianapolis	L 35-22
9/30 UM-Rolla	W 38-24
10/7 Valparaiso	W 43-14
10/14 Lincoln (MO)	W 60-3
10/21 K. Wesleyan	W 41-3
10/28 Fairmont St.	12:00PM
11/4 Central St.	1:30PM
11/11 Tiffin	12:00PM



## Volleyball Looks to Finish Season Strong

By Mike Koscielny, Sports Editor

The Saint Joseph's College women's volleyball team, with a record of 6-18, has rallied a winning streak to conclude their season this year. They have won four of their last five games.

A week ago, on Thursday October 19, the women came from behind and after losing the first game 30-24 to the Illinois Institute of Technology Scarlet Hawks, won three straight, 30-24, 30-12 and 30-21 respectively, to secure victory.

Sophomore Joy Trendelman led the attack, hitting .431 with 14 kills, with help from junior Stacey West hitting .346 with 11 kills and six blocks. Senior Eryn Speed led the defense with a team-high



Stacey West (11) goes to spike the ball, while seniors Eryn Speed (6), Ashley Adams (15), and Melissa Rind (12) help actuate the play. (Photo by Fr. McFarland).

13 digs and three solo blocks. Much support came from sophomore Robyn Bozych, who recorded 42 assists on the night.

Then, last Saturday, October 21, the team played their last home game of the season in Richard F. Scharf Alumni Fieldhouse.

SJC volleyball won the first game over the Marion College Knights fiercely, recording a score of 30-14. The Knights evened the match with a 30-26 win, but the lady Pumas won the next two decisively with late rallies 30-23 and 30-26 respectively.

It was Senior Day in the fieldhouse to celebrate the seniors

and their commitment to the team. The games were won with outstanding efforts from the underclassmen.

Freshman Sara Cramer led the team in not just kills with 13, but also with digs at 20.

Bozych recorded 34 assists and four service aces while Trendelman had three solo blocks.

There are only two matches remaining in the women's schedule. Both are away and both are conference matches. Wish the women luck as they travel to Quincy University in Illinois on Friday and to the University of Missouri-Saint Louis for a Saturday match.

## Soccer Teams End On Right Foot

By Mike Koscielny, Sports Editor

Let's hear it for the Girls and Guys Soccer team. They did their best this year and always played with heart! Rather then looking on the bad, look on the bright side. Cathleen Klausing, who saw action at both the goalie and defender positions, said, "I think the greatest moment for the team was our first win. We had finally come together and played as a team on the field rather than eleven individuals." As for next season, she said, "I think there's a lot to look forward to. We have some very strong returning players and our coach has already begun scouting. I'm excited to find out who the new coach will be. I think next season our team will have a lot of fun both on and off the field, although we will miss Jenna [Mullins], Katie [Awerkamp], and Dolo [Kristin Dolmetsch]."

Senior Katie Awerkamp said, "Well it was a rough season being a senior and all but I would have to say our last game against University of Missouri-Saint Louis was a highlight. Even though we lost against them in overtime I feel we played our hearts out and really showed our true ability. Being a senior it was the best because it was our senior day and it just felt like a good completion to our 4 years."

For the guys' team, they finished out the year just as strong. On their last game, Dan Ford saved five shots in his final collegiate game, finishing his career with a school-record 421 saves. Though a hard session for both teams, they did their best and pulled together like a real team.



Awerkamp gets the save. (Photo by Fr. Tim McFarland).



## Pumas compete at GLVC Cross Country Championships



(Left to Right: Andy Vandehey, Val Ploetz, and Todd Laubhan have trucked through the season.)

By Clark Teuscher, *Sports Information Director*

The Saint Joseph's College men's and women's cross country teams opened the 2006 postseason Saturday, participating in the Great Lakes Valley Conference Championships at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. The Pumas wound up 10th in the 10-team men's meet, while the women's team finished ninth out of 10. The SJC men tallied 254 points, while the University of Southern Indiana edged Lewis University, 63-72, to win the team competition. Lewis' Andy Tremble won the GLVC individual championship, completing the 8,000-meter (five-mile) course in 25:21. Andy VanDeHey (Sr., Kaukauna, WI) crossed the finish line in 27:17 to place 32nd overall and first for the Pumas. Matt Leonardo (Jr., Chicago, IL/St. Laurence) was close behind, placing 35th in 27:23. Also scoring for SJC were Val Ploetz (RFr., Cedar Lake, IN/Hanover Central) in 73rd in 28:31, Todd Laubhan (So., Fort Wayne, IN/Snyder), 78th in 28:46, and Eric Fleming (Sr., Valparaiso, IN/Vincennes JC), 81<sup>st</sup> in 28:51.

The Lady Pumas posted a team total of 238. The University of Wisconsin-Parkside turned in a score of 39, outdistancing Southern Indiana by 14 points, to win the team trophy. USI's Allie Shafer, however, was the individual champion, as she

covered the 6,000-meter (3.75-mile) course in 21:46. Ashley Moore (Jr., Clarksville, IN) was 26th overall, leading the SJC contingent with a time of 23:42. Kim Woodruff (Jr., LaPorte, IN/Michigan City) was 52nd in 24:35, while Danielle Stockmaster (Jr., Willard, OH) was 57th in 24:43, Jordan Henley (Sr., Rossville, IN) was 60th in 24:54, and Jacqui Mohr (So., Crown Point, IN) was 66th in 25:11.

Both teams are off until the Great Lakes Regional Championships on Nov. 4, which will be hosted by Wisconsin-Parkside. The men's race is scheduled to start at 10 a.m., with the women's race to follow at 11:30.



Jordan Henley, Kim Woodruff, and Jenna Helton have worked hard. (Photo by Sports Information Office).

## Pitching Is Key in 2006 World Series

By Chase Sonen, *Staff Writer*

Once again as we wind down this wild baseball season we are reminded that when the leaves on the trees turn from green to a majestic orange-yellow, the baseball gods are summoned to switch things up just when you think you have the game figured out. A month ago, the idea of a Cardinals versus Tigers World Series was laughable because, at the time, both teams were in jeopardy of losing giant leads in their respective divisions, and on the verge of missing the playoffs entirely. Fast forward a couple weeks now, and we are reminded why both teams had such massive leads in their divisions

early in August. The Cardinals are a lot like the baseball version of the Philadelphia Eagles. A team that has been so close as of late, but has yet to get over the hill. The Tigers, on the other hand, are only two seasons removed from losing over 100 games and came into this season with no thought about the position they are currently in. So who wins? Well this is where I go with my personal bias, being a pitcher myself; however, many would still agree that pitching wins championships. Because of this I have to go with the Detroit Tigers over the St. Louis Cardinals. Saying this, St. Louis will probably out pitch Detroit in this series and, as a result, I will look like an idiot; but still, if I was a betting man, I'd take Detroit in 6 games.

While some might argue that St. Louis has a much better lineup, I argue that Detroit has a much better rotation. But don't just listen to me; I have the

numbers to prove it. In 2006, the Chicago White Sox had the third best offense in baseball statistically. In 2005 the Chicago White Sox were ranked 13<sup>th</sup> in the league. This season they scored 120 more runs than they had last season yet last season they were the best team in baseball. How can this be, one might ask? This is where pitching comes in. In 2005, the year the they took the series in four games, the White Sox pitching staff was ranked fourth statistically in baseball. This year, the staff was only ranked 21<sup>st</sup> in the 30-team league, allowing over 150 more earned runs this season than last. And the difference: in 2005 they were playing for a ring, while in 2006 they are sitting at home despite the fact that they lead major league baseball in homeruns, hitting 14 more than the next closest team.

So now you must be wondering where the Cardinals and Tigers match up statistically

this season. While most would argue that St. Louis has a much better lineup anchored by Pujols, Edmonds, and Rolen; the Tigers scored 40 more runs this season and ranked eighth in major league baseball while St. Louis only ranked 14<sup>th</sup> offensively. As for the pitching, well, this is where Detroit dominates this series and the numbers agree with me 100%. While St. Louis is middle of the pack ranked 16<sup>th</sup>, Detroit is the first ranked pitching team in all of baseball, giving up over one hundred fewer runs during the season than that of the Cardinals.

Now the casual reader might look at these numbers and ask what if you took the Tigers pitchers and faced them off against the top offense in all of baseball. Well, they did that this season and the Tigers beat the



(Photo courtesy of Mlb.com).

## Men's Soccer Profile: Joe Talley

By Andrew Costello, *Sports Editor*

1. **How would you characterize your career here as a Puma?** I would say that throughout my time here at SJC, I have attempted to be leader by example, while becoming a more well-rounded person in the various activities that I have participated in. For example, I have attempted to be a leader to my teammates on the soccer team by displaying my work ethic, respect for the program, and passion for the game. I have attempted to be a leader by sitting as a member of the Judicial Review Board, voicing my opinion on controversial issues and



Joe Talley does his David Beckham impersonation. (Photo courtesy of Sports Information).

situations that have arisen on campus. I have attempted to empathize with other SJC students as I lead on Kairos 41, sharing my own struggles with religion and faith. I have also lead by example in my work for the school: developing the online college store during my summer internship, enforcing responsible drinking habits while bartending at Core XI, as well as helping the Rensselaer community by painting the new Community Learning Center located on the first floor of Drexel Hall.

I have also attempted to make myself more well-rounded in my studies of two seemingly opposite subjects: business and religion, while also broadening my horizons via my studies in

French, dance, nutrition, and philosophy.

2. **Favorite Food:** Mom's buckeyes!

3. **Latest favorite movie:** Goal

4. **Most Embarrassing Moment:** Getting caught streaking through the IM field during the power outage last winter.

5. **Role Model:** My Mom is the most selfless person I have ever met. I try to live life with the same sincere love and concern that she has for everyone.

6. **Favorite TV Show:** I don't watch much television, but I'd have to say that when I do I love Family Guy

7. **Finish the sentence: "In order to win the World Cup, the U.S. must..."** "develop a passion for the game above all other sports, like the rest of the world...which will never happen!"

8. **Favorite Type of Music:** I like many genres of music and will listen to various ones depending on my mood...I like dancing to hip-hop and rap...I like to sing along to country...I like to mellow out to Marc Broussard and other soulful artists.

9. **Greatest Sports Moment:** No real one stands out in my mind. I guess this whole season has been great in proving to myself and everyone that I could come back from knee surgery.

10. **What is your Major?** Business. **Minor?** Religion & French

11. **What are your potential career plans?** I am currently speaking to USL (minor league) soccer coaches as I would like to play professional soccer this coming summer.

## Softball Wraps Up Fall Season

By Tyler Stouder, *Staff Writer*

The women's softball team had a very busy fall this year where they were never at home, entering various tournaments. It was here that the Pumas showed great strength in their offense and according to older players a defense that is improving. They participated in the Orland Park Fall Classic Tournament, The ISU Tourney, and were even in a round robin against UIC and DePaul. Besides the solid core of returning players, consisting of Shelly, Hammons, Ashley Emmett, Jesse Privett, Cheryl Zakowski, Nicole Fetla and Stephanie Madsen that lead the way for the fall, many freshman are looked to step up. According to Emmett, "Kara Kristoff and Holly Roadruck are two. Kara is a 3rd baseman and an outstanding hitter, while Holly is a great pitcher and is going to add some real depth to our pitching staff."

Fetla also commented on how the Pumas lineup is very young, "Our line up consists of a lot of freshman, and these freshman girls have really stepped up to earn their positions, also we don't really have one key player, it takes the entire team to win games."

The Pumas goals this year is to make and win the Great Lakes Valley Conference Tournament again this year, and to have another winning record. All of these goals are very achievable, especially with the girls practicing hard day in and day out. They have been training hard to meet these goals.

Emmett closes in stating, "I'm really excited about the up and coming season, and we are a very talented group and just need a few adjustments here and there which we can fix during the winter...this year the key to our success is Offense and communication."

The softball team starts its season off at the end of February for the SIU Edwardsville Tournament, before heading off to Orlando, Florida for their annual spring break trip the first week of March.



Junior Ashley Emmett has started since her freshman year. (Photo courtesy of Sports Information Department)





# Defining Indie, Defining Us

## Popular Dissent with Danny Waclaw

You know the type. You're sitting in a coffeehouse for some light music and a good cup of java to go with your recreational reading, and out of nowhere someone starts talking vehemently about the fall of Western civilization as a result of Barney the dinosaur's evil influence on the youth of today or some other seemingly insubstantial thing. The beret, the horn-rimmed glasses, the black wardrobe: he's the whole package.

This is what one would usually refer to as "indie." Conventional wisdom would have it that to be indie is to be utterly incomprehensible, and yet the whole indie scene--the music, the movies, and even books--holds a certain fascination for most of the American public. Charlie Kaufman has come into vogue; The New Yorker still stands as the sentinel of practical poetic justice; and even Fiona Apple's popularity has soared to new heights with her last album.

Perhaps the reason the term has become so difficult to define lies in its newfound practical value in marketing, as referenced above. Indie-ness connotes genuineness and originality, something counter-

cultural and anti-establishment. This all strikes a chord with the American public, particularly the younger set who have become lost in the disillusioned free-for-all that has become modern life. There are no protests; going against the grain has perhaps, in a way, gone out of fashion with bell-bottoms and other remnants of our parents' spirited generation.

And yet we still cling to that



Bookstore-goers hang out, sans creepy, stereotypical, anti-bourgeois indie guys. (Courtesy of <http://www.flickr.com>)

idealism that is found outside the established mores and regulations of society. We yearn for locally-grown, organic goodness and yet we settle for the same stuff that's lying around in the local grocery store.

This speaks to the growing discontent among people away from the counter-culture and away from everything defining the youth of America. To spell it out quite bluntly, it really refers to us: those people existing away

from metropolitan Meccas and cultural centers. We are the youth of America to whom the artists are speaking.

To be indie, then, isn't to be misunderstood, but more precisely, it's to be miscounted: it's to be, for lack of a better term, *missing*. This idyllic separation from social injustice and important cultural progress leads to a disintegration in values and a general apathy that is virtually

vacant in a world that denies the importance of looking at things differently.

And so it is with us. We are given a challenge, as every generation is; we must define ourselves, independent from past generations while still learning from their mistakes and their contributions.

We are indie. We just need to accept it and move toward a better-informed and more important stature as a generation.

## On the Town!

### David Benoit in Indy

- Who? *Contemporary jazz pianist noted for his association with Vince Guaraldi and Charlie Brown performs original compositions.*
- When? *7 and 9:30 PM EST on Thursday, October 22.*
- Where? *The Music Mill at 3720 E. 82nd St. in Indianapolis.*
- Tickets are \$32.50 at [www.themusicmillvenue.com](http://www.themusicmillvenue.com).

### Alejandro Escovedo

- Who? *Rock musician Escovedo plays with his seven-piece band complete with 'cello and violin.*
- When? *8 PM EST on November 2, 2006. (Doors open at 7 PM.)*
- Where? *The Lafayette Brewing Company.*
- Tickets are \$12 at the door or \$10 in advance. Visit [friends-of-bob.org](http://friends-of-bob.org).

## Overheard

*If you've heard anything scandalous at the cafeteria, anything outrageous enough that you can't keep it to yourself, then look no further! Submit your anonymous comments to [dwj5079@saintjoe.edu](mailto:dwj5079@saintjoe.edu) today to let your peers' voices be heard!*

~  
*On a poem by e. e. cummings:*  
It doesn't make a pigeon's s\*\*\*'s worth of difference when you die.

~  
Mom asks me all the time if your friends are horny.

~  
I can't wait until my sister is fat!

~  
In college, there's no time to be cool during the week. Maybe you can be cool on the weekends.

~  
The problem with you and me is that I have a soul!

## Fountain Stone Theaters

Movies for Oct 27 - Nov 2  
(219) 866-2222  
[fountainstonetheaters.com](http://fountainstonetheaters.com)

Saw 3 (R)  
Fri: 5:00, 7:00, 9:00, 11:00  
Sat: 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00  
Sun: 3:00, 5:00, 7:00  
Mon-Th: 5:00, 7:00

The Grudge 2 (PG-13)  
Fri: 5:10, 7:10, 9:10, 11:10  
Sat: 3:10, 5:10, 7:10, 9:10  
Sun: 3:10, 5:10, 7:10  
Mon-Th: 5:10, 7:10

The Marine (PG-13)  
Fri: 5:20, 7:20, 9:20  
Sat: 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20  
Sun: 3:20, 5:20, 7:20  
Mon-Th: 5:20, 7:20

Open Season (PG)  
Fri: 5:00, 7:00.  
Sat: 3:00, 5:00, 7:00  
Sun: 3:00, 5:00, 7:00  
Mon-Th: 5:00, 7:00

Texas Chainsaw Massacre: The Beginning (R)  
Fri: 8:50, 10:50  
Sat: 8:50

Flicka (PG)  
Fri: 4:50, 6:50, 8:50  
Sat: 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 8:50  
Sun: 2:50, 4:50, 6:50  
Mon-Th: 4:50, 6:50

## Fountain Stone Theaters present...

Late Night Halloween Movies!  
*Grudge 2*  
*Texas Chainsaw Massacre: The Beginning* Saw 3  
All at 11:00 PM!  
Only on Friday, October 27, 2006!

Free Matinee!  
*Monster House*  
Only at 11:00 AM!  
Only on Saturday, October 28, 2006!

The Measure Box is still receiving submissions for Omega! Send yours today to [dwj5079@saintjoe.edu](mailto:dwj5079@saintjoe.edu)

## Karma and the Cosmos

Divined by our own Auntie Cleo



**Scorpio** (Oct 23-Nov 21)  
Okay, Frankenstein, it is time to stop living like a hermit. The only one who thinks you look hideous is yourself; there are no knobs sticking out of your head. Get out and mingle, then maybe you won't be single.

**Sagittarius** (Nov 22-Dec 20)  
It is time to ditch the broom and stop acting like such a witch. People are starting to think you are brewing too many Puma Rumors. Try making friends rather than enemies for a change.

**Capricorn** (Dec 21-Jan 19)  
Having problems sleeping at night? No, your room is not haunted like you may be thinking. Stop all the unnecessary drama between you and your friends, and you will finally get some zzzs.

**Aquarius** (Jan 20-Feb 17)  
It is time to relax and take a brake from all your schoolwork. Snuggle up with your significant other, pop some popcorn, and don't forget a scary movie. You could use a good fright!

**Pisces** (Feb 18-March 20)  
Life has been a bit dull lately. It is time to get out and have some fun. Gather some friends and visit a haunted house or a corn maze—the drive will be worth it.

**Aries** (March 21-April 19)  
Low on dough? Money does not grow on trees, and you do not have a magical wand either. It is time to get off your buns and do something called *work*! Then you could actually pay your bills for a change.

**Taurus** (April 20-May 19)  
All of this crazy weather is affecting your health. It is time to dig out the winter coat; it is no longer swimsuit season. Get some rest and eat your veggies. You will feel better in no time.

**Gemini** (May 20-June 20)  
Being an adult is not all that it is cracked up to be. Try removing the stick from your bum and just be a kid for a while. Carving pumpkins is still as fun as it was when you were younger.

**Cancer** (June 21-July 21)  
Is that a mask you are wearing? Oh, no, it is you being two-faced! Why don't you try being something you are not for Halloween: an angel. Try ditching your nasty horns for a while; it might do you some good.

**Leo** (July 22-Aug 22)  
Stop procrastinating and figure out what you want to be for Halloween. You know your friends are going to have a party, and you do not want to bob for apples looking like that, do you?

**Virgo** (Aug 23-Sept 21)  
Someone has been nibbling on too much candy without even trick-or-treating. Try to cut back on your splurging—the buttons on your jeans will thank you. Getting a little exercise will help the cause, too.

**Libra** (Sept 22- Oct 22)  
Okay, neat freak, don't stress out if your bed is not made one day out of the year. Cobwebs are not taking over your room, so settle down before you give yourself—and your roommate—a heart attack.